Grading System by CBSE

*22. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister to HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed Central Board of Secondary Education to introduce grading system from the current/next year; and

(b) whether other such Boards were consulted or the new policy is proposed to be imposed on them, once the CBSE pattern is implemented?

' THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The National Policy on Education has recommended the use of Grades in place of marks as one of the steps to recast the examination system. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), which is an autonomous organisation has taken a decision, in principle, to introduce the Grade System in declaration of results.

In order to implement the decision, discussions are being held with various Schools, Teaching Community, Parents Representatives, Universities and other Boards. The question of imposing the Grade System by the CBSE on other Boards does not arise. The Council of Boards of School Education (COBSE), of which all the State Boards are members, in its Annual Conference held in December, 1999 have also recommended introduction of Grading System for declaring results.

Subsidy loss due to diversion of PDS foodgrains

*23. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that substantial portion of the subsidy continues to be lost because of diversion of P.D.S. foodgrains to the open market despite various measures taken to revampt the system;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the estimated annual loss of subsidy as a result thereof;